

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Chris Williams (District 3), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: None

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk of the Council) and Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Becky LaLumia (Associate CAO/Finance Management), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning and Codes), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), Terry Huval (Utilities Director), Tim Breaux (Director of Community Development), John Raines (Public Works Director), Steve Dupuis (Legal Counsel), Tony Tramel (Director of Transportation)

COMMENCEMENT

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Vice Chair Bobby Castille called the Regular Council Meeting of September 23, 2003 to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Marc Mouton was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Comeaux introduced:

- Marcus Bruno, Criminal Justice Support Services Administrator, who announced that the second house has been abated under the new abatement program. The house is located in the target area of Helen and Pearl.
- Benny Soulier, Administrative Services Director, with a presentation on the GIS Program. To demonstrate, Soulier used the Mosquito Control Program to show the convenience to the public in using this program.

PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Reconvene the public hearing and Board of Review for all persons desiring to be heard on the assessed value of both real and personal property.

The Vice Chair reconvened the public hearing on assessed value. There being no protests, Castille closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: R-063-2003 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council authorizing the Administration to execute Supplemental Agreement Number 2 for State Project Number 742-02-0028 (South College Drive Extension), motion to adopt by Mouton, seconded by Menard, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trumps

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Campbell then announced that the State has agreed to participate in the funding of the South College Drive Extension. They will pick up \$2,500,000 of the cost and obtain the rights of way. LCG will contribute \$2,000,000 for construction of the bridge.

At this point, Chair Trumps arrived at the meeting and presided.

APPEALS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Appeal of Planning Commission Action concerning Riverview Estates Subdivision.

A motion was offered by Broussard, seconded by Badeaux to grant the appeal (delete Condition #11 – sidewalks are required along Camino Real Road and Corita Court” from the listed conditions), and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion

- a. Update on non-payment of garbage fees in the unincorporated areas. *ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA.*
- b. Update on Noise Ordinance.

Tim Melancon, Noise Abatement Officer, reported the following for a period from May 23, 2003 to September 22, 2003:

The total number of citations issued during the above-mentioned reporting period is 237. of the 237 citations, 97 have gone to court with the following dispositions:

- 50 plead no contest or guilty (70%)
- 13 DL Forfeiture or Bench Warrant (18%)
- 9 nolle pros (12%)

In addition to the citations for noise code violations, there were a total of 52 modified exhausts citations issued during the same reporting period. These are not included in the total 237. Melancon also provided a map of Lafayette Parish showing the locations of the violations.

- c. Drainage problems on Printemps Road. *ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA.*
- d. Signalization of Moss St. at Alexander.

Castille began by relaying a situation, at the intersection of Moss Street and Alexander, where an individual was hit, while riding a motorized scooter, by a vehicle. He urged individuals using motorized wheelchairs/scooters not to drive on heavily trafficked streets and asked the Police Chief to have patrols stop them.

Harold Arceneaux, Advocate for the Disabled, rebutted that Chief Boudreaux has stated, in the past, that these mechanisms are the same as using a motorcycle or bike. He argued that they should be considered the same as a vehicle with the same rights.

Gerald Bertholl, Traffic Signal/System Manager, was then recognized. He explained that there are a lot of misconceptions regarding 8-second “walk” signal. 1) The signal is only to get you to step off of the curb. It does not guarantee one enough time to cross the street. There is an additional 22 seconds of “Don’t Walk” flashing time programmed in, which is used to get one across the street. 2) There is nothing anyone can do to protect any individual walking across any street.

He continued that upon visiting Moss Gardens Apartments, he asked a physically impaired individual, a visually impaired individual and wheelchair bound individual to

cross the street using the signals. He interjected that in order to extend the crossing time; one must push a button on the light to program more time. All three individuals had enough time with time to spare.

e. Update on Camellia Blvd. soundwall.

Stevenson explained that he met with the Public Works Director and staff and saw a very preliminary map and design for the wall. The final alignment for the wall will be ready in approximately 1 month. At that time, Raines will set up another meeting to review the plans again. If everything goes smoothly, the project should be ready to bid in December.

Raines further explained that adjoining subdivisions that were built many years ago, some of the lots do not have compatible closure on the abutment lines between the property lines themselves. Therefore, Public Works will attempt to take a call dimension from the front property line and work that back. The property owners will be given the benefit of the doubt.

f. Harwell/Shiple/Grand Drainage Project.

Stevenson stated that the reason for this item was because he had received numerous calls from residents complaining that the project was going at a “snail’s pace” and the front yards all torn up.

Raines explained that intense utility conflicts existed at this corner. The main complaint was that a section of the project was started and left unfinished, only to begin another section of the project. The contractor has agreed to finish laying the pipe on the Grand Ave. side and then go back to the beginning to redress, put in sidewalks, hydro-seed it and top off the work. He then thanked the contractor for his cooperation.

g. Status on Langlinais Road.

Raines recommended that he meet with Menard and property owners involved to secure the necessary easements by donation. Failing that, estimates have been done on what it would cost to acquire the property itself. They would then meet with the residents to negotiate an amenable route. A Corps of Engineers’ permit would have to be obtained.

h. Status on Bayou Parc Perdue Project.

Menard stated that this item involved two constituents, Mr. Lee Gary on Austin Road and Mr. James Bourque on Détente Road. Mr. Gary has made a Request for Service and called in for responses numerous times. He feels he has never been able to get a sufficient response to his request. Mr. Bourque wants to know when LCG will finish shredding both sides of Parc Perdue starting in Vermilion Parish. Only three-quarters of one side has been done. He also wanted to know if Campbell had met with Iberia Parish because he heard Campbell state that the project would have to be cleaned starting in Iberia Parish and what was the outcome. Campbell answered that only three-quarters of one side was done because that’s all the Corps of Engineers permitted for. Regarding Iberia Parish, he spoke with Will Langlinais, Iberia Parish President, who said they would be looking into that and Campbell offered LCG assistance for resolution to the problem.

Menard then requested that:

- Campbell follow up with Iberia Parish to see where they are with the project.
- Campbell look into getting the easements and the permit to finish the shredding and that he provide the information to the Assistant Clerk.
- The Assistant Clerk provide Campbell with copies of Mr. Bourque and Mr. Gary’s requests.
- The Assistant Clerk send the minutes of Items 7g, 7h and 7i to the constituents involved along with the response once it is obtained from Campbell.

i. Status of Holiday Gardens Drainage Project.

Menard explained that after numerous calls from Holiday Gardens residents, he went out and saw the following: 1) all ditches in the subdivision need cleaning; and 2) the problems with the coulee need to be addressed. He mentioned that there is a coulee on

the back end of the subdivision that was full and probably needs to be cleaned.

Campbell answered that there are two (2) areas of drainage outfalling out of Holiday Gardens Subdivision. One outfall has been dug up to the Town of Broussard and LCG is working on an Intergovernmental Agreement for Broussard to complete. Regarding the second area, LCG could not get the rights of way. He stated that in order to get the maximum benefit for the subdivision the outfall has to be dug, and then tackle the coulee and the roadside ditches.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Comments from the public on other matters.

Richard Prevost spoke regarding the treatment he received from LCG concerning a fence he erected on his property.

Jeffrey Landry asked: 1) why under “Comments from the Public” can statements be made but no questions asked?, and 2) what can be done to make the tax base in Lafayette Parish equal?

Harold Arceneaux spoke of Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government’s inequality of the northside of town versus the southside and the physically able versus the physically disabled.

Carrie Baird complained of “drag racing” on Camellia Blvd. from the City Club to Academy Drive.

Cheryl Babineaux addressed the Council concerning a turning lane at light at Moss Street and Alexander. The Chair suggested that Ms. Babineaux contact Mr. Bertholl for an explanation and requested that the Clerk send a memo to Tony Tramel asking him to address Ms. Babineaux’s issues.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the Regular Council Meeting of September 23, 2003 adjourned.

NORMA A. DUGAS, CLERK
LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL